

What is claimed is:

1     1.           A cooking stove, comprising:  
2           a hollow shell formed from heat-tolerant material;  
3           a substructure for supporting said shell;  
4           a burner assembly operatively attached to said shell or to said substructure; and  
5           a vessel support rack for placement on said shell, said vessel support rack defining  
6 a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel  
7 having a substantially flat lower surface,  
8           said vessel support rack further defining a second vessel-supporting surface on a  
9 second side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially non-flat lower  
10 surface;  
11          wherein said shell is configured to support said vessel support rack thereon with  
12 either said first vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing  
13 upwardly.

1     2.           The stove of claim 1, wherein said second vessel-supporting surface is  
2           substantially concave.

1     3.           The stove of claim 2, wherein said vessel support rack is configured to  
2           support a wok on said second vessel-supporting surface.

- 1     4.            The stove of claim 1, wherein said shell has a plurality of spaced-apart  
2            alignment openings formed therein, and wherein said vessel support rack has a  
3            plurality of projections thereon which fit into said alignment openings, whereby said  
4            vessel support rack can be stably supported on said shell.
- 1     5.            The stove of claim 1, wherein said vessel support rack comprises a plurality of  
2            interconnected support brackets.
- 1     6.            The stove of claim 5, wherein each of said support brackets has a first  
2            projection on said first side thereof, and a second projection on said second side  
3            thereof.
- 1     7.            The stove of claim 1, wherein said vessel support rack comprises at least one  
2            metal ring interconnecting a plurality of support segments.
- 1     8.            The stove of claim 1, wherein said substructure comprises a plurality of height-  
2            adjustable legs.
- 1     9.            The stove of claim 1, wherein said shell has a plurality of vent holes formed  
2            therein to admit combustion air.
- 1     10.           The stove of claim 1, wherein said shell has an intermediate ledge portion  
2            formed therein for supporting said vessel support rack thereon.

1 11. A cooking stove, comprising:  
2 a hollow shell formed from heat-tolerant material;  
3 a substructure for supporting said shell;  
4 a burner assembly operatively attached to said shell or to said substructure, at least  
5 part of said burner assembly being disposed inside of said shell; and  
6 a vessel support rack for engaging placement on said shell, said vessel support  
7 rack comprising a plurality of interconnected support segments which cooperate to define  
8 a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel  
9 having a substantially flat lower surface,  
10 said support segments further cooperating to define a second vessel-supporting  
11 surface on a second side of said vessel support rack for supporting a cooking vessel  
12 having a substantially non-flat lower surface;  
13 wherein said shell is configured to support said vessel support rack thereon with  
14 either said first vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing  
15 upwardly.

1 12. A cooking stove, comprising:  
2 a hollow shell comprising a plurality of spaced-apart alignment connectors  
3 configured to receive mating connectors of a vessel support rack;  
4 a substructure for supporting said shell;  
5 a burner assembly, at least part of which is disposed within said shell; and

6 a vessel support rack for placement on said shell, said vessel support rack  
7 comprising a plurality of interconnected support brackets which cooperate to define a  
8 first, substantially planar vessel-supporting surface on a first side of said vessel support  
9 rack, said support brackets further cooperating to define a second, substantially concave  
10 vessel-supporting surface on a second side of said vessel support rack which is  
11 substantially opposite said first side thereof;

12 said vessel support rack further comprising a plurality of spaced-apart mating  
13 connectors on said first side thereof which are alignable with said alignment connectors  
14 of said shell; and a plurality of spaced-apart mating connectors on said second side  
15 thereof which are alternately alignable with said alignment connectors of said shell;

16 whereby said vessel support rack is installable in aligned relation to said shell  
17 with either said first side or said second side thereof facing upwardly.

1 13. The stove of claim 12, wherein each of said support brackets has a first  
2 projection on said first side thereof, and a second projection on said second side  
3 thereof.

1 14. The stove of claim 12, wherein said vessel support rack comprises at least one  
2 metal ring interconnecting said support brackets.

1 15. The stove of claim 12, wherein said substructure comprises a plurality of height-  
2 adjustable legs.

1 16. The stove of claim 12, wherein said housing shell has a plurality of vent holes  
2 formed therein to admit combustion air.

1 17. The stove of claim 12, wherein said shell has an intermediate ledge portion  
2 formed therein for supporting said vessel support rack thereon.

18. An invertable vessel support rack for placement on a stove, said vessel support rack  
defining a first vessel-supporting surface on a first side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel  
having a substantially flat lower surface,

said vessel support rack further defining a second vessel-supporting surface on a second  
side thereof for supporting a cooking vessel having a substantially non-flat lower surface;

wherein said vessel support rack is configured to fit on a stove with either said first  
vessel-supporting surface or said second vessel-supporting surface facing upwardly.

1 19. The vessel support rack of claim 18, wherein said second vessel-supporting  
2 surface is substantially concave.

20. The vessel support rack of claim 19, wherein said vessel support rack is configured to  
support a wok on said second vessel-supporting surface.